

Engineering Co-op and Internship Program

*We've been successful for a long time...
now it's your turn.*



We've been successful for a long time...

For more than 20 years, Ohio State's engineering students have participated in a formal cooperative education program. Student and employer interest in the program has increased dramatically over the years, and today, most engineering students graduate with intern or co-op work experience. Generally, interns graduate with two quarters of experience, while co-ops graduate with three or more quarters of experience.

...now it's your turn!

Why co-op or intern through the Ohio State Engineering Co-op and Internship Program?

- When hiring college graduates, more than 98% of **employers recruit through their co-op and internship programs first.***
- We work with **the country's most impressive companies** and engineering minds—and they want you.
- You can find out **what engineers really do** before investing years of college tuition.
- Most students find their **course work more interesting** after they've had hands-on experience.
- Your experience will help you **identify technical electives** you'll need and want—and make the most of your academic career.
- Graduating students with co-op/internship experience typically receive **more and better full-time offers**.

* Based on a survey conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Why choose Ohio State?

- The College of Engineering at Ohio State attracts top engineering employers.
- We provide you with the skills and contacts to make your search successful.
- You'll have 24-hour-a-day access to our cutting-edge, web-based system, where you can view job opportunities and sign up for interviews.
- Employers are drawn to our voluntary co-op/intern program because they know it attracts ambitious students.
- The College of Engineering is large enough to provide undergraduate degree programs in 14 specialized areas, yet small enough to offer you individual attention.

What is the difference between a co-op and an internship?

Cooperative Education (Co-op) jobs are developmental. Students apply what is learned in the classroom to career-related positions by alternating terms of full-time study with full-time work. Co-op jobs involve non-consecutive work periods ("rotations") with the same employer that can continue until graduation. For example, a co-op student may work full time in winter quarter, attend classes in spring, then return to work in the summer, and so on. With each return to work, students have more skills to apply and thus increased responsibility and compensation.

Internships involve one work period with an employer, which may last for one or two consecutive quarters. Employers offer internships every quarter; however, summer internships are most popular. While internships are also paid full-time engineering jobs, they do not offer the breadth and depth of experience that co-ops do.

What's the advantage of co-op?

We encourage students to consider co-oping. Both employers and students invest more into a co-op position and consequently students can gain deeper and broader experience than they would in an internship and certainly most summer jobs. The multiple work terms give employers the opportunity to provide students with better training, more extensive involvement in projects, and increased responsibility upon each return. Some employers rotate their co-ops among different departments so that students are exposed to a variety of engineering environments.

Can I co-op or intern without enrolling in the program?

In the state of Ohio, co-ops and internships are recognized as official only when students are 1) enrolled in a university while they work and 2) registered with a formal program. A formal co-op and internship program can deem a job a "co-op" or "internship," enroll you in a co-op/internship "course," and subsequently document that experience on your transcript as "Professional Experience."

Employers that recruit through our program must meet program requirements so that your experience involves engineering-related responsibilities, training, close supervision, and performance feedback.

The course enrollment also maintains your full-time enrollment status, which is important for financial aid, scholarships, health insurance, and athletic tickets.

If I decide to pursue an internship, why not simply find one on my own?

When it comes to getting a position, as the saying goes, "It's not what you know, it's who you know." Although some people are lucky enough to find a good internship on their own, most don't have access to the companies they admire most. Why not take advantage of who we know? Those who participate in the Engineering Co-op and Internship Program have these advantages:

- Opportunities with the most sought-after employers
- Support and guidance before, during, and after your internship experience
- Assurance that the internship is authentic and relevant—not just another summer job disguised as an internship
- Higher wages—students enrolled in formal co-op and internship programs receive higher wages than “free agents”*

When can I begin in the program?

Students can start immediately after meeting the following requirements:

- Enrolled full time and in good standing with the College of Engineering
- Successful completion of Math 151 or H161
- Successful completion of three full-time quarters, at least two at Ohio State

What's my first step?

Once program enrollment requirements are met, students can begin the registration process by attending a one-hour meeting. Meetings are held frequently throughout the quarter. See our web site for details and meeting times.

Will co-op delay my graduation?

On average, it takes engineering students about five years to graduate because most engineering programs consider co-oping an essential part of a student's education. Engineering experience is a *must* to be competitive at graduation. The trade-off for delayed graduation is likely to be more and better job offers.

However, sometimes delayed graduation can be avoided: some Ohio State engineering programs offer courses more frequently than others, so co-oping may not delay graduation if an additional course can be taken between co-op quarters. Local employers may also accommodate a student's need to attend a class during a work quarter. Students should meet with their academic advisor to plan a work/study schedule.

Where can I work?

While we work with many central Ohio employers, co-ops and interns often take advantage of our national employer base and work throughout Ohio and the United States.

How can I afford to work away from campus or home?

In addition to competitive wages, employers may offer up-front assistance for relocating co-ops and interns, or they may offer higher compensation levels to offset relocation expenses. Some employers provide partially or fully subsidized housing. At minimum, most employers will help students with local housing options that meet their budgets.

Relocation requires careful consideration and planning, but the heightened learning experiences are worth it. Relocation offers an exciting opportunity to preview a career, a potential employer, and a possible place to live.

How long does it take to get a job?

The amount of time you invest in the job search process is a key factor in how quickly you will see results. Some students have found co-ops or internships within a few weeks of program registration; others take much longer. It's important to plan early.

How much can I earn as a co-op or intern?

Co-op/intern wages vary by major, work term, class rank, and the kind of employer. Typically, average wages range from \$17.30 per hour (for chemical and computer science engineers) to \$12 per hour, reported by multiple majors.

* Based on a survey of 365 co-op and internship employers conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Our program participants get co-op positions and internships with industry leaders like these:

American Electric Power
Anheuser Busch
Areva*
Battelle Laboratories
Bridgestone/Firestone
Cargill
Caterpillar*
Chemical Abstracts Service
Cleveland Clinic
Cooper Tire & Rubber
Copeland
DaimlerChrysler
Dana Corporation
Deere & Co.
Dow Chemical*
Dupont
Eaton*
Energizer
Ethicon Endosurgery
ExxonMobil*
Ford Motor Company*
General Electric*
General Mills
Goodyear*
Honda of America
Honeywell
IBM
Intel
Kokosing Group*
Liebert
Lockheed Martin
Los Alamos National Laboratory
Lubrizol
Marathon-Ashland Petroleum

Messer Construction
Mettler-Toledo*
Microsoft
NASA
National Instruments
National Security Agency
Nationwide
Nestle
New Product Innovations
Ohio Dept. of Transportation
Ohio EPA
Parker-Hannifin*
PPG*
Procter & Gamble*
Raytheon*
Roche Diagnostics
Rockwell Automation
Rolls-Royce
Shell Oil Company*
Stanley Electric
Swagelok
Toyota Motor Manufacturing
Turner Construction
U.S. Department of Agriculture
Worthington Industries
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base

* Donors who supported the publication of this brochure.

*We work with hundreds of employers...
here are some names
you might recognize*

Tips for getting the co-op or internship you want:

Start early

- Attend a registration meeting as soon as you complete the program requirements
- Update your resume every quarter
- Conduct an active job search beginning fall quarter

Use every opportunity to prepare yourself

- Participate in on-campus interviews, job fairs, and workshops, and make use of electronic job postings
- Meet with program staff who can give feedback on your resume, help you target your job search, answer job search account questions, and give tips on everything from writing cover and thank you letters to interviewing and evaluating offers
- Check out students' reviews of co-op and intern employers

Be an attractive candidate

- Establish and maintain a solid GPA
- Get involved in engineering projects
- Seek leadership roles in student organizations
- Volunteer at the university or in the community
- Take presentation and written communication assignments seriously
- Be proactive in getting the help you need—our office is here to help you!



Engineering Co-op and Internship Program
199 Hitchcock Hall
2050 Neil Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43210
phone: (614) 292-6651
e-mail: ecip@osu.edu

<http://career.eng.ohio-state.edu>